

CLAIMS

1. A method of controlling the operation of a missile launcher which fires free fall ballistics missiles, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) firing a missile from the missile launcher;
 - 5 b) tracking the trajectory of the fired missile;
 - c) calculating a predicted point of impact of the missile after it reaches its trajectory apogee;
 - d) feeding back the predicted point of impact to the missile launcher before the missile impacts;
 - 10 e) applying a correction prior to firing a subsequent missile; and
 - f) repeating steps a) to e) until the missile impacts a chosen target.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein step d) comprises feeding back the predicted range of the missile.
3. A control system for a free fall ballistics missile fired from a missile launcher, the control system including:-
 - 15 tracking means for tracking the trajectory of a missile fired from the missile launcher;
 - calculation means for calculating a predicted point of impact of the missile, the calculation means being operable immediately after the missile reaches its trajectory apogee; and
 - 20 feedback means for feeding back the predicted point of impact to the missile launcher so that a correction can be applied before the fired missile makes impact prior to the launch of subsequent missile.
4. A control system according to claim 3, wherein the calculation means comprises a processor connected to receive data from the tracking means and to provide data relating to the predicted point of impact in the form of range information.
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5. A control system according to claim 4, wherein the processor includes the feedback means.
6. A control system according to any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein the tracking means comprises a tracking radar system.
- 5 7. A control system according to claim 6, wherein the tracking radar system recognises the missile as it is fired from the missile launcher.
8. A targeting system including a control system according to any one of claims 3 to 7.
9. A method of controlling the operation of a missile launcher substantially
10 as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
10. A control system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.